

1300 was named in honor of Pvt. Henry Ostendorf, the first service member from Madison County, IL, to be killed in action during World War I.

The first Commander of Post 1300 was Pat Doyle. The first post colors were handmade and are still on display in the post's flag case today. The first Auxiliary President was Shirley Stanfill.

From its inception, Post 1300 was active in the community as well as in advocating for the benefit of veterans. Some early civic activities included an Independence Day fireworks extravaganza, begun in 1938, that thrilled the citizens of Granite City and the surrounding communities. During World War II, Post 1300 began sending cards and gift boxes to area service members who were on active duty.

As with many new organizations, Post 1300's first meeting was held in a private residence, the home of Larkin Conaway. The meetings rotated among the homes of members before moving to the Odd Fellows Hall in Granite City. After considerable fund-raising by the post and the auxiliary, the Wendel Bakery building was purchased and renovated for a post home and the first meeting was held there in April 1946. This served until the new post home was first occupied on May 1, 2006.

Although much has changed since 1932, Post 1300 has continued in its service to veterans and to its community. From raising money for veterans, visiting those sick and injured in the hospital and donating flags to area schools to promote patriotism, Post 1300 has been true to the mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of VFW Pvt. Henry Ostendorf Post 1300 both past and present on 75 years of serving veterans and the people of the Granite City, IL, area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I inadvertently voted "aye" on rollcall No. 564, an amendment to the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill, H.R. 2643. I intended to vote "no" on the amendment, which would have imposed an unacceptable cut to the National Endowment for the Arts. I am pleased that my colleagues did not support this amendment, and I congratulate the gentleman from Washington, Interior Subcommittee Chairman NORM DICKS, who provided such important support for the arts and humanities in his subcommittee's legislation.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2829) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, a funny thing happened during a routine security check on classified information in the Executive Branch. It was blocked by the Vice President of the United States. The fact that the Vice President refused to comply with a security requirement imposed by the President is deeply disturbing. However, what is more chilling is the fact is that he defended his action by maintaining that he is not really within the Executive branch and hence, not within the reach of the Executive Order. In classrooms throughout our country students are rightly taught that the American Constitution establishes three branches of government—the Executive, the Legislative and the Judicial. Despite his best efforts, there is no "Dick Cheney" branch of government.

So, I rise today in support of Mr. Emanuel's amendment to strip the funding for the Vice President's office within the executive branch based upon his assertion that it does not in fact exist. The Vice President's position that he is outside of the reach of the Executive Order adds another act in the Cheney Theater of the Absurd. The Vice President seems to believe that for every rule there is a "Cheney exception". He doesn't want to be bound by the same rules that apply to everyone else.

As highlighted by the ongoing Washington Post series on the Vice President, his worldview has infected the policies and practices of the entire Bush Administration. As a Federal Appeals Court noted, the Administration's attempt orchestrated by Mr. CHENEY to rewrite the Clean Air Act could be valid "only in a Humpty-Dumpty world" where everything is upside down. Nowhere has the Cheney approach had more impact and created more damage than in the area of national security policy. His blatant misrepresentation about the situation in Iraq before and during the war have weakened our national security and diminished our credibility around the world. After all it was DICK CHENEY who said: "Simply stated, there is no doubt that Saddam Hussein now has weapons of mass destruction. There is no doubt that he is amassing them to use against our friends, against our allies, and against us." This statement we now know to be wrong.

Regarding Saddam Hussein's connections with Al Qaeda, despite repeated findings to the contrary by Executive branch agencies, bipartisan Congressional Committee and the Baker Hamilton Commission that there is no evidence of collaboration between Al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein, the Vice President continues to repeat the erroneous claim.

Once the war started he was equally wrong in his assessment of the war claiming two years ago that the Iraqi insurgency was in its "last throws".

Following a report in January of this year where the President finally acknowledged deep troubles in Iraq, the Vice President indicated that the Administration has achieved "enormous successes" in Iraq and declared that critics and the media "are eager to write off this effort or declare it a failure."

Regarding the conditions for detaining the Bush Administration's "enemy combatants" at Guantanamo Bay the Vice President said: "They got a brand new facility down at Guan-

tanamo. We spent a lot of money to build it. They're very well treated down there. They're living in the tropics. They're well fed. They've got everything they could possibly want."

It has been difficult to determine which of the Vice President's unique traits epitomizes his arrogance of power more, his belief that he is above the law or his complete and utter disregard for the facts. This week however, a more disturbing tendency has emerged, his complete abandonment of reality.

Still if the Vice President insists that he is not a part of the Executive Branch then his office in the Executive Branch must be unnecessary and is no longer in need of funding.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to state for the record that I missed roll call vote 532 to H.R. 2764 taken on June 21, 2007. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted aye.

As an ardent supporter of the rights of the unborn, I stand in strong support of H. AMDT. 364, which would restore the President's emergency plan for AIDS relief authorization provision requiring 33 percent of HIV/AIDS prevention funding to be spent on abstinence and fidelity promotion programs.

IN HONOR OF JIM BOWMAN, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of a great American, Mr. Jim Bowman, of the United States Air Force Academy.

After 49 years of service to the Academy, Mr. Bowman has announced his retirement from his position of Assistant Athletic Director in charge of recruiting support for 27 varsity sports teams. Throughout his tenure, Bowman has led numerous sports teams, and has held various positions within the athletic department.

Jim Bowman first came to the Air Force Academy in 1958 and was head junior varsity football coach for 4 years before becoming head freshman coach. He served as frosh coach until the 1975 season when he again assumed the J.V. program. In his five seasons as J.V. Head Coach, his teams compiled a 24-4-1 record and his 1963 and 1975 teams were undefeated. After the 1975 season, he retired as a coach to devote his full duties to the candidate counseling and admissions support program.

His successes as a coach stem from his own on-field prowess, as Jim Bowman was a successful high school and collegiate athlete. Bowman, an all-conference player for Charlevoix High School, went undefeated all 4 years he played. He later attended the University of Michigan, and received his varsity letter as a center in his senior year.

Over his tenure at the Air Force Academy, he was a member of the staff that participated